

REMARKS

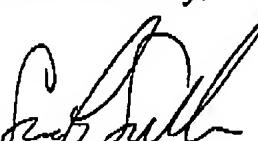
Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Final Office Action of December 13, 2004, in which claims 1-8 are presently pending. Of those, claims 1-3 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,372,618 to Forbes, et al. In addition, claims 1, 3 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,380,055 to Gardner, et al. However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 4-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. For the following reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 1 has been cancelled, while claims 4-6 have each been rewritten in independent form. In addition, dependent claims 2, 3, 7 and 8 have been amended to become dependent from claim 4. Newly added claims 9-11 (corresponding to claims 2, 3 and 7) and 12-16 (corresponding to claims 2, 3, 7 and 8) are added to become dependent from independent claims 5 and 6, respectively. As such, no new issues for consideration are raised by the present amendment, and the Applicants respectfully request entry of the same pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116.

For the above stated reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. No new matter has been entered and no additional fees are believed to be required. However, if any fees are due with respect to this Amendment, please charge them to Deposit Account No. 09-0458 maintained by Applicant's attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,
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